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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law 5th Floor
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Newark, New Jersey 07101
Attorney for the Board of Nursing

FILED
JUN 1 7 2013

N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

By: DAG Susan Carboni Tel. (973) 648-2894

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION: OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF:

Administrative Action

or reproduction of the bicembe of

ORDER OF SUMMARY

AVA HARRIS, R.N. LICENSE # NR 07282400

SUSPENSION

TO PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED NURSE (R.N.) IN THE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (" Board") upon the receipt of information indicating the following;

- Respondent is a registered nurse in the State of New
 Jersey whose nursing license expired on May 31, 2011.
- 2. On or about March 18, 2013, the Board sent a request for information by certified and regular mail to respondent's last address of record with the Board following receipt of information about a medical malpractice payment in a law suit

relating to respondent. The certified mailing was returned, unclaimed. The regular mailing was not returned. (Exhibit A) No response was received.

3. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:1-7.1(b), any nursing license which has not been renewed within 30 days of its expiration date is suspended without a hearing.

ACCORDINGLY,

IT IS on this 17th day of June, 2013
HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey has been suspended pursuant to $\underline{\text{N.J.S.A.}}$ 45:1-7.1(b).
- 2. Upon any application for reinstatement of license, respondent shall respond in full to the Board's inquiry concerning the incident in 2007 that resulted in the law suit, and until respondent has demonstrated completion of thirty (30) contact hours of continuing education for the 2009-2011 licensing cycle, as well as any subsequent cycles.
- 3. The Board reserves the right to bring disciplinary action in connection with the incident that was the subject of the law suit, if warranted.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Bv:

Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C

Board President

EXHIBIT

A

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fice of the Attorney General

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JEFFREY S. CHIESA Attorney General

ERIC T. KANEFSKY
Acting Director

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 45010 Newark, NJ 07101 (973) 504-6430

March 18, 2013

Certified Mail & Regular Mail

Ava Harris 18 Christinelynn Drive Monroe, New Jersey 08831-1996

Re:

Medical Malpractice Payment Report

Dear Ms. Harris:

The New Jersey Board of Nursing has received a Medical Malpractice Payment Report in which \$300,000.00 was paid for an incident which occurred on January 10, 2007 when a 32 year old pregnant female with a history of placenta previa and an increased risk of a placenta accrete presented for a caesarean section to deliver her unborn fetus who was diagnosed with a hypoplastic left heart. It is alleged that the standard of care regarding communication of same, diagnosis and treatment was not followed. This alleged failure to properly communicate, treat and manage the patient resulted in the deterioration of the patient's condition and eventual death.

Since the above-stated allegations may constitute a violation of N.J.S.A 45:1-21 to wit: professional misconduct, repeated or gross acts of negligence or malpractice, it is necessary for the Board to conduct an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the incident. Please answer the following questions or provide the requested information.

- 1. What was the actual amount of money paid out by the medical malpractice insurance company on your behalf? Do you know how many other practitioners/entities that amount entailed or were there any additional amounts paid out?
- 2. Provide the name and address of the facility/office where the incident occurred.
- 3. What is your written response to each allegation made against you in the lawsuit?
- 4. If you were deposed, submit a copy of your deposition. If you testified at trial, submit a copy of your trial testimony.

March 18, 2013

- 5. Provide copies of all expert reports for the plaintiff and defendants. If the experts were deposed, provide a copy of the deposition.
- 6. Where are you currently employed and in what capacity? Provide the name of the unit and your title. Submit a copy of your most recent performance evaluation.
- 7. Were you terminated or asked to resign from the place of employment/work where the incident occurred? If so, provide a copy of the disciplinary notice or letter of resignation.
- 8. Have you been named as a party in any medical malpractice lawsuits before or since the incident in question? If you have been named as a party in any other medical malpractice lawsuits, provide the date of the incident, a brief description of the allegation and the date and disposition of the lawsuit.
- 9. Do you have any additional information that you wish the Board to consider? If so, you may provide it.
- 10. Have you ever been arrested or convicted of any crime/offense? If so, identify the crime/offense, the date, the court and the eventual disposition.
- 11. Have you taken the required continuing education courses? If yes, please provide proof (certificates of completion) of all credits earned during your last renewal period of May 1, 2007 through May 31, 2009. The Board is aware that your license is expired.

Please submit your written response to:

Board of Nursing P.O. Box 45010

Newark, New Jersey 07102

Attention: Dr. Mary Johansen

Failure to submit a response to the questions or information requested above within ten (10) days of receipt of this letter may require your personal appearance before the New Jersey Board of Nursing or its Deputy Attorney General by way of subpoena ad testificandum to answer these questions. It also may constitute a failure to comply with the duty-to-cooperate rule of the Board of Nursing, N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1, and be grounds for disciplinary action.

Should you have any questions about this request, please contact Dr. Mary Johansen at: (973) 424-8193.

Heder

Very truly yours.

George J. Hebert, M.A., R.N.

Executive Director

NJ Office of the Attorney General
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
NEW JERSEY BOARD OF NURSING
PO. BOX 45010
NEWARK, NJ 07101





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